

D A I L Y   R E V I E W

STATINTL

of the

B A G H D A D   P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.  
Baghdad, Iraq.

Thursday, December 28, 1950.

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SPEAKERS AT WEDNESDAY'S MEETING OF PARLIAMENT

Six speakers took the floor during the Parliamentary debate of the Speech from the Throne, they are:

Prime Minister - Text translated in full

Dhibban Al-Ghabban

Faiq As-Samerrai

Siddiq Shanshal

Ahmed Al-Naqib

Sa'ad Omar

Dhibban Al-Ghabban: Criticizing the Speech from the Throne, said that the main cause of dissatisfaction in the country is the existence of a Parliament not truly representing the people. Once this is settled, he adds, there will remain no more feudalism and no State ruled by some 20 or 25 persons. The Iraqi Constitution was not drawn up by the will of the people but by the will of the British for their protection. New elections therefore should be conducted. Speaking about democracy, he queries: Where is the freedom under this regime while thousands of Iraqis are thrown into the "Nuqrat Salman" camp suffering from Tuberculosis. He then touched upon what he called the 'secret Majlis' which appoints cabinet Ministers and withdraws their confidence whenever it wants. He concludes that this secret majlis rules from behind the scene.

Faiq As-Samerrai: Centers his criticism on 4 points which the Speech had failed to touch:

1 - The Palestine Issue: I am sure Nuri was cautioned not to mention anything about Palestine in the Speech made at his Party's congress; also the Speech from the Throne failed to mention this subject. This failure occurred at a time when the American and British governments are endeavoring to lay pressure on the Arab States for the final settlement of the Palestine case.

2 - Iraq's attitude towards world developments was also not mentioned, while gigantic preparations for war are in progress. What then is Iraq's attitude towards the human butchery about to break out at any time? Shall we be drifted into the war - not our war - as were drifted before? What is Iraq's interest in this situation and in joining any of the camps? We would like to know this in an official communique or see this in the Speech.

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3 - How about Iraq's attitude towards Arab Affairs in general, he queries, and what is Iraq's position on the Arab Collective Security Pact and the Internationalization of Jerusalem?

4 - What is Iraq's attitude towards the Mediterranean Pact? Istanbul radio announced recently that the Iraqi Deputy Chief of Staff had come to conduct military talks with Turkey, and although this was denied by Iraq, Turkish papers persistently referred to such talks. In addition, a Turkish diplomatic spokesman admitted that talks were conducted between the two governments for the revival of the Sa'adabad Pact; and also the President of the Turkish Republic referred to this subject in the Speech from the Throne. Iranian papers also touched upon this same topic, saying that Nuri As-Said will come to Iran to conduct 'very important talks'. (Here Nuri As-Said rose to refute all these reports.)

Siddiq Shanshal: Spoke about discontent and pessimism among all citizens. This he said would not be removed without a positive and constructive policy. The Iraqi people were not discussing her military power in the next war, but asking whether they would have enough food to eat and enough clothe to wear.

Sa'ad Omar: said that Nuri As-Said is the leader of the ruling class who comes to power and leaves whenever he desires. The foreign and internal policy of the government was not made clear in the Speech, he said, and asked for clarification of the country's position on the present world tension. The ruling class, he argues, does not mean any Minister who participates in any cabinet but means those who introduce such ministers and remove them. The question of feudalism is not something secret that is unknown to the Premier - it was created during the national rule. Ruling is not national at all for a national government should be founded to meet all the needs and not for the interest of a particular class. The demand for free elections is one of the simplest matters in any democratic country. He reminded the Premier himself as speaking one day about the forged elections. He concluded that imperialists are not alone responsible for the scandals and irregularities as there are nationals who have done more harm to the country, and said that there is no need to mention the names of holy and decent personalities such as H.M. the Late King Faisal, during parliamentary debates.

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